Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the applications:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved strap tensioner comprising:

a. a rigid base with a front flange member and a rear flange member;

e b. an intermediate member pivotally connected to said rigid base, said intermediate member including a lower first cam surface;

~~b~~ c. a tension lever longitudinally aligned and pivotally mounted to said intermediate member, ~~located over said rear flange member,~~ said tension lever including a lower clamping flange;

d. means for pivotally connecting said tension lever to said intermediate member so that said first cam surface is disposed above said lower clamping flange on said tension lever;

e. means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member in opposite directions;

f. a means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid member;

g. a means for coupling the movement of said tension lever and said intermediate member so that when said tension lever is rotated ~~in~~ a predetermined ~~amount~~ distance in a forward direction, said intermediated member is engaged and begins to rotate in a forward direction;

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f. a brake lever pivotally connected to said rigid base, said brake lever including a second cam surface that presses against a strap extended longitudinally ~~on~~ onto said rigid base to prevent movement of said strap when extended through said rigid base and disposed under said first cam surface; and,

g. a biasing means connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second cam surface against a strap extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first cam surface.

2. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rigid base includes two longitudinally aligned side walls, a transversely aligned front flange member, a transversely aligned rear flange member, a transversely aligned upper strut and a transversely aligned rear strut.

3. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 2, wherein said intermediate member includes two upper ear members located opposite said first cam surface, each said upper ear member including a transversely aligned bore formed therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 3, further including a pin disposed transversely between said side ~~wall~~ walls on said rigid base used to pivotally attached said intermediate member and said tension lever to said rigid base.

5. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 4, wherein said means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid base is spring

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disposed over said pin ~~that~~ said spring presses against said intermediate member and said upper strut on said rigid base to ~~biasing~~ force said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid ~~member~~ base.

6. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 5, wherein said tension lever includes a central opening that enables a strap to extend through said rigid ~~member.~~ base.

7. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said means for pivotally connecting said tension lever to said intermediate member is a transversely align pin.

8. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 7, further include a spring disposed around said pin to bias said tension lever and intermediate member in opposite directions over said rigid ~~member.~~ base.

9. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 8, wherein said tension lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage the ear members on said intermediate member when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over said rigid ~~member.~~ base.

10. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said brake lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said

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tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

11. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 4, wherein said brake lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

12. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 10, wherein said brake lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

13. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 10, wherein said brake lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

14. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said brake lever includes two ears located at one end, each ear include a bore and being separated by a central space.

15. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 12, wherein said biasing means connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second cam surface against a strap extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first cam surface is a spring disposed over a transversely aligned pin and located inside said central space.

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16. (Currently Amended) An improved strap tensioner comprising:

a. a rigid base that includes two side walls and transversely aligned front flange member, a transversely aligned rear flange member, a transversely aligned upper strut and a transversely aligned rear strut.;

b. a tension lever longitudinally aligned located over said rear flange member, said tension lever including a lower clamping flange that extends downward and under a strap when disposed longitudinally over said front flange member and rear flange members, said tension lever includes a central opening that enables a strap to extend through said rigid member;

c. an intermediate member pivotally connected to said rigid base and located adjacent to said upper strut, said intermediate member including a lower first cam surface that extends downward to engage a longitudinally aligned strap disposed inside said rigid base and between said side walls;

d. a transversely aligned pin disposed between said tension lever and said intermediate member to pivotally connect said tension lever and said intermediate member together;

e. means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member in opposite directions;

f. a means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid member;

g. a means for coupling the movement of said tension lever and said intermediate member so that when said tension lever is rotated in predetermined amount in a forward direction, said intermediated member is engaged and begins to rotate in a forward direction;

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h. a brake lever pivotally connected to said rigid base, said brake lever including a second cam surface that presses against a strap extended longitudinally on said rigid base to prevent movement of said strap when extended through said rigid base and disposed under said first cam surface; and,

i. a biasing means connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second cam surface against a strap extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first cam surface.

17. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 16, wherein said intermediate member includes two upper ear members located opposite said first cam surface, each said upper ear including a transversely aligned bore formed therein.

18. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein said tension lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage ~~the~~ said ear members on said intermediate member when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over said rigid ~~member.~~ base.

19. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim ~~17~~ 18, means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member is a spring disposed over a pin used to connect said tension lever and said intermediate members together. ~~wherein said tension lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage the ear members on said intermediate member when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over said rigid member.~~

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20. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 16, wherein said brake lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a forward direction over said rigid ~~member~~ base thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

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